



FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

JANUARY - APRIL

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Preschool Open House

Thursday, January 19
Prairie Building

10:00 - 10:45 am

Inclement weather date: January 26

Join us for the Preschool Open House to learn how building with sticks, counting pinecones, and crafting with leaves and seeds can become a part of your child's educational experience. The nature preschool at Pioneers Park Nature Center offers a preschool program for ages 3-4 and pre-kindergarten program for ages 4-5. **Space is limited. Students currently enrolled are offered early registration.** Please only adults at the open house. For more information please contact the Preschool Director at 402-441-8669.

**Registration
for the 2017-18
school year
begins Feb. 1**



Nature Explorers Spring Camp

Monday – Friday, March 13-17
Pioneers Park Nature Center

8:30 am – 5:00 pm
\$180/camper

Children ages 6-12 can spend the week with us at the Nature Center during Lincoln Public School's spring break. Learn about ecology, wildlife, and more during this fun filled week of day camp. We'll be outdoors every day hiking, exploring, playing games, making crafts, and so much more. Dress for the weather, bring a sack lunch, and be ready to have some fun. *(Extended hours are available: 7:45 am – 5:30 pm.) Register by February 28.*



Wild Adventures

Saturday, April 29
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Mark your calendars for a wild good time during our annual spring festival.

Sandhill Crane Trip

Friday, March 10

Noon – 10:30 pm

Meet at Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park

\$85/person

One of the world's greatest migrations converges right here in Nebraska. Witness these spectacular birds as they forage and dance in the fields and fly above us on our way to the Ian Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary in Gibbon, Nebraska. Stops will include a visit to the Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center and dinner at Burchell's White Hill Farmhouse.

At Rowe Sanctuary we will hear a short presentation on cranes and make our way to a private viewing blind along the Platte River. As we watch the



sunset, we'll listen to thousands of cranes and observe them as they gather on the river for the night. Included in this remarkable experience is transportation, dinner, and cost of the blind. (The \$25 blind reservation fee is nonrefundable if the trip is cancelled, or if a participant cancels and a replacement cannot be found.) Participants must have the ability to walk uneven trails in low light. *Space is limited. Register by February 10.*

new!

Saturday with our Naturalist

April 15, May 20, and June 17
Prairie Building

2:00 – 3:00 pm

\$5/person per hike

Join us the third Saturday of April, May, June, September, October, and November for a guided hike with, Jamie, the Nature Center's Naturalist. We'll go for a guided hike on the Nature Center trails to observe what's blooming, the wildlife that is around, and enjoy the current season. Hikes will have various themes and cover different areas of the Nature Center. Dress comfortably for the weather, we'll be outdoors the entire hour. *Register by the Wednesday before each hike.*



LNKNatureCenter
on Facebook, Twitter,
& Instagram

Check out more programs and classes inside. →

PROGRAMS

Cross Country Ski Workshop

Saturday, January 21
Prairie Building

2:00 - 4:00 pm
\$20/person



Slide and glide over the snow during the cross country ski workshop lead by Outdoor Adventures from University of Nebraska. This workshop is geared

towards those who have never cross country skied or are looking for some tips and tricks for a better skiing experience. If weather is not ideal for skiing we'll strap on our boots and clip into skis for an indoor class and all participants will receive a coupon for ski rental from Outdoor Adventures. Recommended for individuals 12 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Register by January 17.

Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 28
9:00 am

Join the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center for their annual gathering at the Prairie Building. Come learn more about the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center and enjoy refreshments and conversation. There will be presentations on what has changed at the Nature Center in the past year and what we are anticipating in the coming years.



2017 Friends Events Include:

April 29	Wild Adventures
June 10	Beer, Brats, & Bikes
Aug. 26	Mystery on the Prairie
Sept. 22	Wild Fall Festival

Memberships start at \$25. Benefits to becoming a Friend include special access to Friends programming, 10% off all Nature Center gift shop items, free or reduced admission to other centers nationwide, and the satisfaction of supporting a valuable community resource.

Full Moon Guided Hike

Friday, February 10
Prairie Building

7:00 - 8:30 pm
\$8/person

During the night the Nature Center has plenty of mysteries to be uncovered. Your guide will take you through the trails for a night-time discovery experience. This program is open to all, however it may not be suitable for young children. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Register by February 8.

Monarchs and Pollinator Garden Workshop

Saturday, February 11
Prairie Building

10:00 - 11:00 am
Free

Learn about monarchs, other pollinators, and how to make a pollinator garden during this workshop presented by Nebraska Wildlife Federation. Register by February 9.

WILDERNESS nature camp

Summer Camp Registration Opens January 23.

Leadership Camp

Monday - Friday, June 5-9
Ages 14-17

8:30 am - 5:00 pm
\$140/camper

Learn outdoor and leadership skills while making new friends at Leadership Camp. This camp, held at Wilderness Park, is designed for young adults looking to build skills and learn new talents, from team building to survival skills. Following Leadership Camp,



attendees can assist at Wilderness Nature Camp over the summer as Junior Counselors. There is a special application process for this program, please contact the Nature Center or view more details at parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter.

Wilderness Nature Camp

Monday - Friday, June 12-Aug. 4
Ages 6-13

8:30 am - 5:00 pm
\$180/camper

Spend the summer immersed in nature, hiking, exploring, and going on adventures with your friends. Wilderness Nature Camp at Wilderness Park is a day camp experience like no other camp around. Each week includes a field trip to a different location, time to explore the creek and build forts, and of course games such as capture the flag.

Themes and activities change each week. A camp t-shirt is included with registration. All registration forms and waivers must be received the Monday prior to camp starting. There is no camp the week of July 3-7.



Camp Discovery

Monday - Thursday, June 5-July 20
Pioneers Park Nature Center

9:00 - 11:30 am
\$80/camp

This is a half day camp designed for young explorers, ages 3-6. Camp activities will be planned around each week's nature-based theme. From crafts to hikes your child will have a wonderful experience learning about the world around them. Registration must be received the Monday prior to camp starting. There is no camp the week of July 3-6.



Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 18

9:00 – 11:00 am

Chet Ager Building

Suggested Donation \$5

Join us and the Wild Bird Habitat Store for this annual bird walk and count event. This birding program is great for birders of all levels. We'll meet at the Chet Ager Building, watch the feeders, and then head out for a hike, weather permitting. *Register by February 16.*



Sunset Guided Hike

Friday, April 21

7:30 – 9:00 pm

Prairie Building

\$8/person

Enjoy a guided hike at the Nature Center while the sun slips below the horizon and dusk falls on the landscape. Witness the changes in the sights and sounds as day becomes night at the Nature Center. *Register by April 19.*

Mother's Day Bird Walk and Brunch

Sunday, May 14

8:00 – 10:00 am

Prairie Building

\$16/person

Enjoy a day to celebrate Mothers by joining us on an early morning bird walk followed by breakfast at the Nature Center. A guide for your walk plus rolls, fruit, and beverages will be provided. Binoculars are also available for those who need them. *Register by May 10.*

Composting Workshop

Saturday, May 20 and June 24

10:00 am

Compost Demonstration Area

Free

Learn how to be successful with composting by attending a free composting demonstration workshop sponsored by Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln Recycling Office. Demonstrations are presented by Extension Master Gardeners and include three types of composting bins and how to use them. This workshop takes place at the composting demonstration area just across the road from the Prairie Building.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Spend your birthday at the Nature Center!

Available times:

- Saturdays: 10:00 am - noon or 1:30 - 3:30 pm
- Sundays: 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Each birthday party includes a guided hike or activity, a special gift for the guest of honor, party bags for each child, and time for you to have your own activities and refreshments. Call 402-441-7895 to schedule your party, at least two weeks in advance, or for more information.

Themes Include:

- Reptiles Rock
- Amazing Birds
- Marvelous Mammals
- Nature's Scavenger Hunt
- Grow in the Garden (*spring-summer*)
- Insect Investigations (*late summer-fall*)

THANK YOU

Memorials

Thank you to the families and friends who have honored their loved ones by donating memorials to Pioneers Park Nature Center. These memorials include:

- Genevieve "Gen" Hogg
- Henery "Bud" Everman
- Jean Harker Tussing
- Velma Brooke

Prairie Jazz Festival

The Prairie Jazz Festival raised almost \$10,000 dollars for the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center.

Thank you to our event Sponsors:

- Cooper Foundation
- Dillion Foundation
- The Nebraska Arts Council and Nebraska Cultural Endowment
- Brewsky's in the Haymarket
- Sandhills Publishing
- Union Bank and Trust
- Anita Raybould Family
- Lincoln Parks Foundation

Prairie Run

The Prairie Run brought in \$1,000 dollars for the Pioneers Park Nature Center prairie restoration and conservation work.

Thank you to the following businesses and organizations that contributed to this event:

- The Lincoln Running Company
- Trader Joe's
- Scheels
- Threads Footloose and Fancy
- K&D's Honey Bees
- Red Dirt Running Company
- Lincoln Children's Museum
- UNL - Morrill Hall
- Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center
- Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch
- Indigo Bridge Books

Eagle Scout Projects

Jeremy Mathews | Natural Play Area Project

Jeremy constructed a new entrance arbor to the Natural Play Area. The arbor was made out of cedar and buckthorn branches. He also improved the storage shed in the space by cleaning it and painting the inside.

Joseph Bruner | Arboretum Project

Joseph's project included inventorying tree species in the designated arboretum area of the Nature Center. Tree ID markers were placed or repaired, a new species, a bitternut hickory, was planted, and a GPS listing of the trees was created for future mapping and inventory purposes.

SCOUTS

One hour guided hikes: \$4.25/scout

Minimum 10 scouts or \$42.50

Schedule a guided hike for your scouts at the Nature Center. Explore trails, learn about plants and animals, and discover wild things while at the Nature Center. Hikes can be adapted for specific scout level requirements. Hikes must be arranged at least two weeks in advance. Two hour badge activities are also available. Call, 402-441-7895, for information.

Pioneers Park Nature Center

Lincoln Parks & Recreation
2740 "A" Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 135

Return Service Requested



402.441.7895
naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov
parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter
3201 S. Coddington (west end of Pioneers Park) Lincoln, NE 68522

Hours: Monday - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday: Noon - 5:00 p.m.
Admission: Donation - \$3/person \$5/family \$10/group



WHAT'S NEW?



Welcome Josh Buethle! Josh is the Nature Center's new Facility and Grounds Manager. Josh comes to the Nature Center from the Southwest Parks District where he has worked for almost 2 years.



Stephanie Walker is our Office Assistant. Stephanie has been with the Nature Center for a year and a half as the Office Assistant which is now a full time position.

Aaron Druery has been promoted from the Land Manager at the Nature Center to the Greenways and Conservation Supervisor for the Parks Department.



Sally Gaines McKee is the new Visitor Services Coordinator. Sally has been with the Nature Center for over 10 years, helping with visitor services, scheduling staff, and leading school hikes.



HYDE MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY

Free Programs Every Saturday
March (DST) - August
September
October-March (DST)

Sundown - 11 pm
8-11 pm
7-10 pm

Enjoy programs about astronomy and space exploration, learn from knowledgeable volunteers, and take a peek into the universe through three different telescopes. Programs change monthly. Visit hydeobservatory.info for more details. *Hyde Observatory is located on the south side of Holmes Lake in Holmes Park. 3701 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE.*